

"Nordified" by Alessandro Sollima and Maria Teresa Tanzarella

Life Long Burning residency

## REPORT

The piece "Nordified", result of our residency at Riksteatern, represents perfectly what our stay in Sweden felt like: thoughtful and well focused on one hand, random and playful on the other.

As we arrived the first day in Riksteatern we were really surprised by such a production space. It has been hard for us before to find a simple studio. In the first place it was almost scary to have all of this, we felt very spoiled, but actually it gave us an extra push feeling a big responsibility to get the best out of the support we were receiving.

From the beginning we had a clear idea on how to approach the work. After a brief brainstorming understanding common points and discrepancies of our solos, each of us played his/her solo few times while the other was improvising relating to it. This practice led us to have a lot of material and images to work on, it just needed to be defined and put together in a (not necessarily) coherent order.

It felt quite clear from the beginning that the piece was forming itself without any need to push it or force it. We just went with the flow guided by what felt right and enjoyable for us.

After a couple of weeks of work just between the two of us, the piece was shaping itself more and more clearly, so it was time to bring someone else to watch our work and to share ideas with. This exchange was really satisfying since our audience reacted really enthusiastically. The work was "exciting, fun, powerful and unpredictable" , exactly what we wanted to reach: raise questions with a hint of smile on their faces.

We received very positive feedbacks but also good points to reflect on to improve our work.

"Nordified" was a great opportunity for us to collaborate.

Choosing to start from two of our most personal works, we found ourselves exploring deeper our strengths and our weak points, understanding more about "myself" in relation to the other. From this exchange we realized to be more complementary than we thought, so our collaboration, the combination of these two different worlds, became the main focus of our research.

Freedom and constraint as key words, leading to a third one: silly randomness. We

wrote wish lists and worked on what we wanted to do. "Nordified" is the exchange between a skilled performance, its practical preparation, its playfulness but also its exhaustion and weakness.

This residency has been very significant for us. First of all, the fact itself of having this residency. After our first piece, we had had the wish to work more together, but we didn't really have a precise plan. Having this residency made us get together and find a common interest in something and challenged us to work on it. Our working methodology also evolved and got refined through it.

Then, the facilities, the support, the offers. Having the possibility to dive into the work, without having to worry about material issues (where to live, where to rehearse, how to pay the rent of a studio, where to perform, etc..) is in our opinion the best facilitation an artist can get. Being us also quite young artists, this residency for us was very important for shaping our artistic research. We tried to make use of every minute available and worked long days enthusiastically.

Getting to know the Cullberg dancers and having them around, seeing their performances and rehearsals, kept us inspired and in discussion. We loved that we could ask for help and invite people to watch, but that we could also have the time for ourselves, our privacy, our try-outs.

The work itself has been surprisingly smooth. Things were easily flowing, we felt productive and focussed and almost amazed by how things were unfolding and clear.

At last we really wanted to have the showing to give a conclusion and wrap up our time there, to experience the things that we had been working on in front of an audience and to hear its response. The feedbacks and the questions that we got are suggesting us new ways to explore or directions to give to this piece.